

Do You Have a Burglar Alarm?

Many homes and businesses have installed burglar alarms to detect and deter criminal activity. The Police Department applauds this measure to enhance crime prevention measures. The department reminds citizens and businesses that the City ordinance requires registering the alarm and receiving a permit for use. The permit process is without cost and requires minimal information.

The Police respond to alarm company notifications on a frequent basis. Often the officer does not detect any criminal activity and determines the alarm was false, a malfunction, or weather related. Because of the resources that are expended to respond to these false calls, the City invoices the alarm holder at a cost of \$25 per false call. The City further recognizes mistakes get made and other factors may interfere with the alarm. Because of this, the city applies the following conditions: 1) if the alarm is registered and a permit issued, the first FALSE alarm of the calendar year is NO CHARGE, 2) however, if the alarm is not registered and there is no permit, the first FALSE call is charged at \$25, 3) if the alarm is the result of an alarm malfunction, and is supported by written notice from the alarm company, there is NO CHARGE, 4) if the alarm is the result of criminal activity, there is NO CHARGE, 5) if the alarm is the result of extreme weather conditions, there is NO CHARGE. It is therefore the false calls that result from employee error and homeowner error that result in a billable charge.

Captain Scott Jackson is the coordinator of the burglar alarm program and can be contacted at (931) 455-0530 or tpd@tullahomatn.gov for additional information. An alarm permit application can be downloaded from the City's website at www.tullahomatn.gov from the Police Department page.